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4 February 1959

MEMORANDUM TO: Holders of CIA/RR 125, Construction and Imports of Vessels for the Soviet Maritime Fleet, 1946-60, and of CIA/RR RA-39, The Soviet Maritime Dry Cargo Fleet: Its Expansion and Performance, 1950-57, and Plans Through 1960

The following statement has been prepared to explain an apparent discrepancy in the estimated volume of dry cargo vessels built and imported by the USSR as reported in the subject reports.

The estimates in RR 125 include all the maritime types of vessels constructed and imported by the USSR, regardless of ultimate assignment. Intelligence has shown that some of these vessels were allocated for service outside the maritime fleet as naval auxiliaries, research vessels, cable layers, and the like immediately upon delivery from the shipbuilding yard or after a period of service with the maritime fleet.

RA-39, for its part, shows the estimated number and volume (in gross register tons -- grt -- and in cargo carrying capacity in tons) of dry cargo vessels of more than 1,000 grt, built and imported by the USSR and actually assigned to the oceangoing maritime fleet (excluding the Caspian Sea and Danube River fleets). Therefore, all references in RA-39 to vessels built or imported by the USSR for the maritime fleet exclude maritime types of vessels which were assigned to other services either immediately upon delivery from the shipbuilding yard or which were withdrawn from the maritime service during the earlier years covered by the report. These references, however, do include some vessels which were withdrawn from maritime service in the later years covered by the report.

In both reports the lack of firm intelligence precludes an exact listing of vessels assigned outside the oceangoing fleet of the Soviet Ministry of the Maritime Fleet.

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Chief, Document Division

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